

September 5, 2013

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF  
THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND  
ENERGY CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Torrance Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission convened in a regular session at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 5, 2013 in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

**2. ROLL CALL:**

Present: Commissioners Chim, Deemer, DeWitt,  
Gobble, Martin, Robbins, and Chairperson Griffiths.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Senior Environmental Quality Officer Duncan,  
Environmental Quality Officer Colclasure, and  
Waste Management Coordinator Sherman.

**3. SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

Commissioner Gobble led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. POSTING OF THE AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Gobble, seconded by Commissioner Robbins, moved to accept and file the report of the secretary on the posting of the agenda for this meeting; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

**5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

The Commission welcomed guests Councilmember Weideman and Jim Montgomery.

**6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**6A. MINUTES OF AUGUST 1, 2013 COMMISSION MEETING**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Gobble moved to approve the August 1, 2013 Commission meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Martin seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (Commissioner Robbins abstaining).

## **7. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS**

### **7A. RECYCLING PRESENTATION BY ALISON SHERMAN**

Waste Management Coordinator Sherman provided background on the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 that requires cities to reach 50% diversion of waste. She reported that a few years ago Torrance joined with approximately 18 other cities to form a regional reporting group called Los Angeles Regional Agency (LARA). She noted that, even though LARA reports as a unit, each individual city is looked at on its own for its own programs. She stated that Torrance is reaching 50% and is in compliance at this point, in part because less waste has been created in the economic downturn.

She discussed programs that help keep the City in compliance. She reported that the residential green waste recycling program has reached its potential and is very successful. She noted that, before the program was fully implemented a year ago, the residential diversion rate was 28% and that the green waste program has brought it up to 45%. She stated that the City plans to add a food waste program once the infrastructure is ready. She described the mandatory commercial and multi-family waste recycling program through AB32 and outreach efforts before its is implemented. She noted that, as Torrance is an open city that has multiple haulers, all the haulers were surveyed for proprietary information and that they are in the process of auditing the information. She pointed out that it is the City's responsibility to monitor, educate, and do outreach while the onus is on multi-family residences and businesses to enforce. She briefly discussed ongoing programs that include an annual recycling event, outreach and education at schools, promoting composting and hazardous waste, commercial demolition recycling, and a used oil grant program.

In response to Commissioner Robbins' inquiry, Waste Management Coordinator Sherman stated that the simplest way to explain to people what constitutes green waste is just to say no food.

Commissioner Gobble encouraged the City to support Walser's Art Supply electronic waste service as the owner tries to move into the recycling business.

Responding to Commissioner Deemer's inquiries, Waste Management Coordinator Sherman stated that Toyota, Honda, and ExxonMobil are great leaders and go beyond what is required by law. She pointed out that residential and large industry recycling is successful but that multi-family and smaller businesses are areas that need improvement. She stated that the State considers multi-family residences to be five units and above.

In response to Commissioner DeWitt's inquiry, she stated that some private and commercial haulers incinerate waste but that only 10% of incineration is allowed to count for diversion.

When Commissioner Gobble related his understanding that multi-family residents are clamoring to recycle, Waste Management Coordinator Sherman explained that some commercial haulers are already providing this service, offer an additional dumpster for recycling, and allow mixed material in one container that is taken offsite to be sorted.

She pointed out that by law multi-family residences will have to have recycling within the next year.

Responding to inquiries from Chairperson Griffiths, she stated that the City mandates haulers to provide accurate reports but it is difficult to enforce, that the City has 25 to 30 haulers, and that most green waste from Torrance is now going toward composting.

## **8. NEW BUSINESS / ORAL COMMUNICATION**

**8A.** Senior Environmental Quality Officer Duncan announced a Chairperson training on September 26 and informed the Commission that next month there would be an item regarding beekeeping and chickens.

**8B.** Commissioner Martin stated that the City of Los Angeles is installing LED street lights and expressed hope that Torrance can do the same.

Commissioner Gobble pointed out that the City has 18 or 20 LED street lights and that traffic signals have been LED for 10 years, adding that Redondo Beach was able to purchase 1,800 LED lights with Federal grant funds.

**8C.** Commissioner Chim stated that Sacramento Municipal Utility District is giving away up to ten free shade trees to lower electricity bills.

**8D.** Commissioner Robbins shared information about the Alta Sea marine research facility planned at Port of Los Angeles that will be operational by 2019.

**8E.** Commissioner DeWitt announced an Alt Car Expo on September 20-21 in Santa Monica.

**8F.** Chairperson Griffiths announced a Heal the Bay Coastal Cleanup on September 21.

**8G.** Jim Montgomery, Via El Chico, commended the City for its recycling programs and for offering financial incentive for smaller trash bins. He voiced support for providing education to residents about how to prune and trim trees.

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** At 7:58 p.m., Commissioner Robbins moved to adjourn the meeting to October 3, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room. Commissioner DeWitt seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Griffiths so ordered.

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Approved as submitted October 3, 2013 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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